



(12) **United States Patent**  
**Hough et al.**

(10) Patent No.: US 6,760,047 B2  
(45) Date of Patent: Jul. 6, 2004

**(54) METHOD FOR FLAGGING AND RELATING INFORMATION IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM**

(75) **Inventors:** **P. J. Hough**, North Bend, WA (US);  
**Thomas F. Begstraesser**, Kirkland, WA  
(US); **Jason D. Carlson**, Redmond, WA  
(US)

(73) Assignee: Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA  
(US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 528 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 09/794,896

(22) Filed: Feb. 26, 2001

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2002/0118226 A1 Aug. 29, 2002

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... G06F 13/00

(52) U.S. Cl. .... 345/753; 345/258

(58) Field of Search ..... 345/253, 751,  
345/758, 760, 738, 739, 968, 752

(56) **References Cited**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,848,424	A	12/1998	Scheinkman et al.	
5,898,434	A *	4/1999	Small et al. ....	345/835
6,380,955	B1	4/2002	Kanungo et al. ....	345/764
6,442,574	B1 *	8/2002	Schumacher et al. ....	707/505.1
6,515,681	B1 *	2/2003	Knight .....	345/751

\* cited by examiner

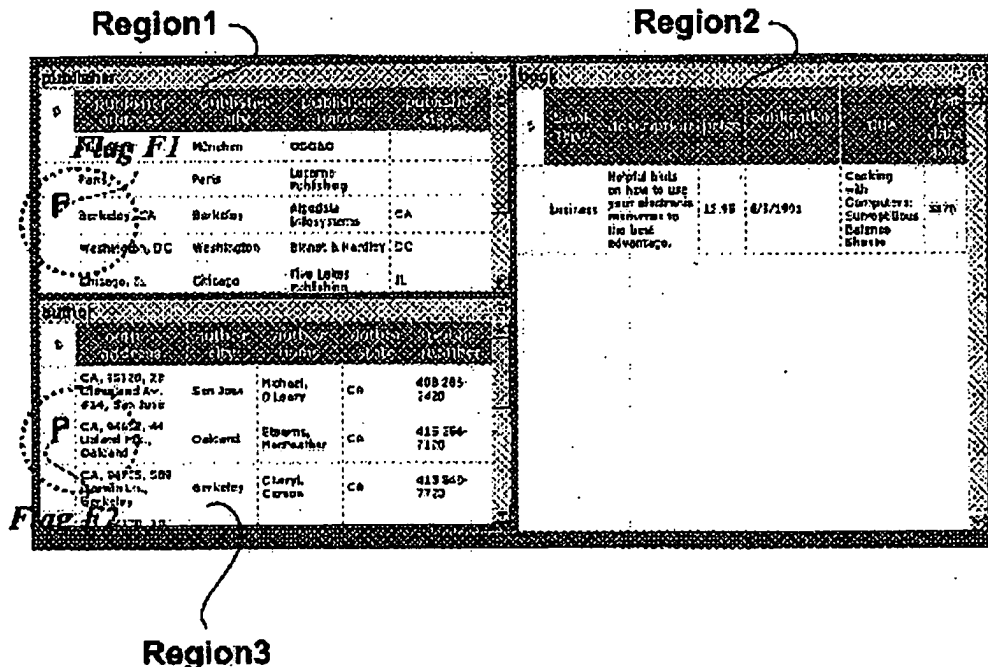
**Primary Examiner—Cao Kevin Nguyen**

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Woodcock Washburn LLP

## (57) ABSTRACT

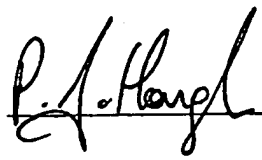
This document describes a user interface mechanism to relate information from multiple heterogeneous data sources. Data displayed in different regions on a user interface can be related by selection of an element in one region and pinning it. The pinned element acts as a filter for the information in the other regions on the user interface. Successive pinning of elements in other regions allows further filtering of the information in unpinning regions using the context of previously pinned elements.

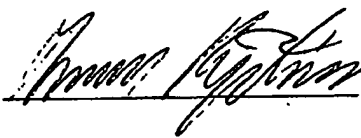
**40 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets**

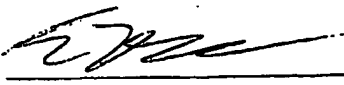


Docket No.: MSFT-0300/167533.1

PATENT

<b>Name:</b> P.J. Hough	<b>Signature:</b> 
<b>Mailing Address:</b> 1435 SW 13 <sup>th</sup> Place North Bend, Washington 98045	<b>Date of Signature:</b> 2-12-01
<b>City/State of Actual Residence</b>  North Bend, Washington	<b>Citizenship:</b> Ireland

<b>Name:</b> Thomas F. Begstraesser	<b>Signature:</b> 
<b>Mailing Address:</b> 10417 NE 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street Kirkland, Washington 98033	<b>Date of Signature:</b> 2/12/01
<b>City/State of Actual Residence</b>  Kirkland, Washington	<b>Citizenship:</b> Germany

<b>Name:</b> Jason D. Carlson	<b>Signature:</b> 
<b>Mailing Address:</b> 12815 - 181 <sup>st</sup> Avenue NE Redmond, Washington 98052	<b>Date of Signature:</b> 2-12-01
<b>City/State of Actual Residence</b>  Redmond, Washington	<b>Citizenship:</b> United States of America

05734696-0000001